MIDDLE EAST & SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

15 JANUARY 1986

PDRY

Radio Monte Carlo, citing "authoritative government sources," reported that the situation in the PDRY had "returned to normal" despite some "small pockets of resistance." It reported that Aden radio had resumed transmission and had broadcast a statement saying the YSP Political Bureau was meeting under PDRY Chairman 'Ali Nasir Muhammad. Japanese commercial sources, however, said that rebel forces are continuing to advance on the presidential palace. WAKH quoted "well-informed sources" in Sanaa as denying that Aden radio had resumed transmission. QNA cited the Kuwaiti newspaper *AL-SIYASAH*'s report that the death of 'Ali Ahmad Nasir 'Antar, deputy chairman of the Supreme People's Council Presidium, resulted when he attempted to assassinate the PDRY chairman at a meeting of the Cabinet and Central Committee on 12 January as part of a planned coup. The chairman was wounded and hospitalized and 'Antar was killed by the PDRY leader's supporters. The Iraqi News Agency noted the UAE paper *AL-KHALIJ*'s report that Defense Minister Salih Musli Qaslih has been arrested in connection with the coup attempt.

Libyan Leader Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi offered to send a Libyan peace force to end the fratricidal strife in the PDRY, according to Tripoli radio. Jerusalem radio's Arabic service cited an East Jerusalem newspaper's claim that Soviet forces have arrived in the PDRY to support one of the warring sides. However, Prime Minister Haydar Abu Bakr al-'Attas warned external forces against intervening in a statement from India reported by Baghdad Voice of the Masses radio, asserting that the crisis is an internal affair concerning the PDRY alone.

Libya

A military encounter between the United States and Libya could occur "at any moment," most probably "at sea," Col al-Qadhdhafi said in a speech to a Basic People's Congress in Tripoli broadcast by Tripoli television. He added that the Air Force, Navy, and air defense forces should be prepared for a battle. Al-Qadhdhafi claimed that U.S. warships heading for the Gulf of Sidra have "retreated," and he referred to an attempted Israeli raid against Libya "around 6 January" which the Israelis cancelled after they realized it risked "untold consequences."

The Arab League foreign ministers agreed to hold an extraordinary meeting 22 January to consider the U.S. "threats" against Libya, KUNA reported.

Lebanon

In a report on Al-Jumayyil's 13-14 January talks in Damascus, Voice of Lebanon radio said he proposed that the agreement be referred to the Chamber of Deputies and insisted that the present Government remain in office. Tripartite Committee sources cited by Beirut radio denounced President Amin al-Jumayyil's "negative" stance on the tripartite agreement, asserting that proposals made by Al-Jumayyil in his talks with the Syrian president were a "new attempt to torpedo the agreement" and left no room for compromise. The signatories will implement the agreement unilaterally if efforts to reach agreement with Al-Jumayyil fail, the sources warned. Progressive Socialist Party leader Walid Junblatt and Amal Movement leader Nabih Birri met to discuss a response to the "reneging" on the tripartite agreement, Beirut radio reported. The clandestine Voice of the Mountain radio later reported that the two men had reaffirmed their determination to safeguard the agreement.

As for the military situation in the Christian sector, Beirut radio announced that the headquarters of Lebanese Forces Executive Committee Chairman Elie Hubayqah was attacked on 15 January. The radio said guards had repulsed the assault. The Voice of Lebanon later announced that a second cease-fire had gone into effect.

Egypt

Egypt appreciates Israel's "positive and constructive" stance over Tabah, Foreign Minister 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid asserted in remarks reported by MENA after meeting with President Husni Mubarak. He welcomed Israel's acceptance of the principle of arbitration in the Tabah dispute but added that some points in the Israeli Cabinet decision require thorough discussion.

Gulf Shipping; Iran-Iraq War

The United States and the UK have acknowledged Iran's right to stop and inspect vessels suspected of carrying strategic goods for Iraq, IRNA reported, citing U.S. and UK Government statements. Iran will continue to inspect ships in the Persian Gulf and Gulf of Oman regardless of the flags they sail under, the Iranian Navy commander said in a *KEYHAN* interview cited by IRNA.

Iraqi planes attacked Khark Island, according to an Iraqi military communique broadcast by Voice of the Masses radio.

Gulf Foreign Relations

Kuwaiti-Soviet Talks — Soviet Deputy Defense Minister General Vladimir Govorov's 14 January talks with the Kuwaiti defense minister covered all aspects of Kuwaiti-Soviet relations, particularly military cooperation, according to a Kuwaiti Defense Ministry spokesman cited by KUNA. Kuwait's foreign minister expressed appreciation for the USSR's "positive" stand on Arab issues in remarks reported by the agency.

Howe Tour — British Foreign Secretary Sir Geoffrey Howe was received by Saudi King Fahd in Riyadh 14 January, SPA noted, and KUNA reported his arrival in Kuwait the following day.

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Karmal Receives Soviet Solidarity Delegation
LD150709 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0424 GMT 15 Jan 86

[Text] Kabul, January 13, BAKHTAR: Babrak Karmal, general secretary of the Central Committee of the PDPA and president of Revolutionary Council of the DRA, received a high-ranking delegation of the Soviet Afro-Asian Solidarity Committee headed by Aleksandr Dzasokhov, first deputy chairman of the committee.

Babrak Karmal told the delegation about the transformations which have occurred in various political and socio-economic spheres despite the undeclared war unleashed by imperialism and reaction against the DRA.

Referring to the fruitful cooperation between the Soviet Union and Afghanistan, Babrak Karmal expressed confidence in further expansion of fraternal relations among the parties, governments, social organisations and the people of the two countries.

The head of the delegation expressed the firm support of the Soviet Afro-Asian Solidarity Committee to the struggle of the people of Afghanistan against reaction and imperialism and the ensuring of peace in the country.

The meeting was concluded in an atmosphere of friendship and sincerity.

Keshtmand Expresses Solidarity to Libyan Envoy
LD142346 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 14 Jan 86

[Text] Soltan Ali Keshtmand, member of the PDPA Central Committee Politburo and chairman of the DRA Council of Ministers, received (Salim al-Hajiri 'Abdallah al-Huni), secretary of the Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah People's Bureau, for a meeting at 1130 this morning.

In stressing the broadening of all-round and fraternal relations between the two countries, Soltan Ali Keshtmand expressed the solidarity of the party, the government, and the people of revolutionary Afghanistan with the anti-imperialist struggles of Libya.

Soltan Ali Keshtmand denounced the recent adventurist actions of the U.S. Administration which has embarked on armed provocation against Libya.

The secretary of the Libyan People's Bureau in Kabul expressed gratitude for the unreserved support of the party, the state, and the DRA Government for his country.

NFF Central Council Executive Board Members Named
LD141131 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 13 Jan 86

[Text] In light of the 10 theses of Babrak Karmal, general secretary of the PDPA Central Committee and president of the DRA Revolutionary Council, the recent statement of the DRA Revolutionary Council and the sixth plenum of the Central Council of the National Fatherland Front [NFF], an extraordinary meeting of the NFF Central Council Executive Board was held at the headquarters of the Front today in order to discuss the further popularization of the NFF as well as the enhancement of its role in the politico-economic life of the country's people and the participation of the tribes, classes, clans, and patriotic and national forces in the leading ranks of the NFF.

In the course of the meeting, chaired by Abdorrahim Hatef, president of the NFF Central Council and attended by Anahita Ratebzad, member of the PDPA Central Committee Politburo, the biographies of a number of former candidates to the posts of vice-chairmen of the Central Council and members of the NFF Central Council Executive Board, were read out by the secretary of the NFF Central Council.

A BAKHTAR correspondent reports that 33 new members were included in the Central Council membership. Among them, 12 persons were elected as members of the NFF Central Council Executive Board.

From among the 12 new Executive Board members, 6 are elected as professional deputies [as heard] and the other6 as non-professional deputies of the DRA NFF.

The professional deputies to the chairman of the Central Council are: Mawlawi Abdourrauf, previously chairman of the NFF Provincial Council in Badghis Province, Uzbeki and non-party member; Aqel Shah Mangal, retired general, Pashtun and non-party member; Sayyed Muhammad Sa'di Naderi Esma'ili, [nationality not specified] non-party member; Sayyed Muhammad Ali Shah Sujadi; Hazara and non-party member; Sayyed Rasul Fakur, previously a people's deputy in the National Assembly, Tadzhik and non-party member; Abdurrahim Morad; Turkamen, previously director of information of Radio Afghanistan, and PDPA member.

The non-professional deputies to the chairman of the NFF Central Council are: Dr Wali Muhammad Abgiani, chairman of the Executive Committee of the Jirga of deputies of Kabul City, Pashtun; Fazl Ahmad Toghian, chairman of the Executive Committee of the Jirga of deputies of the people of Kabul Province, Tadzhik; Wali Muhammad Ziarmal, chairman of the Exeeeutive Committee of the Jirga of deputies of the people of Nangarhar Province, Pashtun; Abdul Jamil Zarifi, chairman of the Executive Committee of the Jirga of deputies of Balkh Province, Tadzhik; Muhammad Zaman, governor of Kandaharha, Pashtun; Mir Abdul Halim (?Jarar), governor of Herat, Tadzhik.

At the meeting, the new members of the Executive Board and vice-chairmen of the chairman of the NFF Central Council were unanimously approved.

National Seminar on Political, Training Work Opens
LD142344 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 14 Jan 86

[Excerpts] A nationwide seminar on political and training work for the realization of the decisions of the 16th PDPA Central

Committee Plenum about consolidation of revolutionary sovereignty and broadening of the social pillars, was opened today in the Store Palace of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Taking part in the work of this seminar are Mahmud Barialay, candidate member of the Politburo and secretary of the PDPA Central Committee; Zohur Razmju, candidate member of the PDPA Central Committee Politburo and secretary of Kabul City's party committee; Niaz Muhammad Mohmand, secretary of the PDPA Central Committee; Major General Muhammad Yasin Sadeqi, secretary of the PDPA Central Committee and general head of the army's political affairs; members of the Central Committee and officials of the PDPA Central Committee's departments; a number of the vice chairmen and members of the DRA Council of Ministers; deputy heads and employees of the PDPA Central Committee apparatus; political workers of the DRA Armed Forces; some secretaries, assistant secretaries, and officials of propaganda, popularization, and training departments of provincial committees and Kabul City; some secretaries of districts and subdistrict party committees, officials of the capital and provincial mass media, and some ideological workers of the government departments and social organizations.

A BIA correspondent reported that the message of the PDPA Central Committee, addressed to the participants of the seminar, was read by Mahmud Barialay.

Maj Gen Ghulam Faruq Yaqubi, DRA minister of state security, delivered an all-round exposition on the hostile activities of the enemies of the revolution and on the increase in the level of political awareness of our noble compatriots.

The work of the seminar will continue tomorrow.

Jeddah Reports Afghan Mujahidin Successes
GF150651 Jeddah Domestic Service in Arabic
0500 GMT 15 Jan 86

[Text] Afghan mujahidin killed 24 troops of the invading Soviet and agent Afghan forces during their attacks on these forces in Qandahar on 31 December 1985.

Western diplomatic sources said yesterday that 20 Soviet soldiers were executed in Qandahar in early December 1985 for their refusal to fight against the Afghan mujahidin. The sources also said that 400 Afghan militiamen defected to the mujahidin in the Ghazni area in early December 1985.

Reportage on Visit of Iranian President Khamene'i

Stay Extended by 1 Day

BK141519 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu
1500 GMT 14 Jan 86

[Text] The Iranian president's stay in Islamabad has been extended by 1 day. He was to arrive in Lahore today. According to the revised schedule, the Iranian president will leave Islamabad tomorrow for Lahore where he will attend a civic reception at the Shalamar Garden. The Punjab governor will host a dinner in his honor. He will visit Badshahi mosque and the mausoleum of Allamah Iqbal. He will also meet with Persian language scholars and professors at the Punjab University.

Tehran Reports Presidential Talks

LD141211 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian
1030 GMT 14 Jan 86

[Excerpt]-The first round of formal talks between President Khamene'i and President Ziaul Haq started at 0900, Tehran time, this morning, at the Pakistani Presidential Palace.

According to a Central News Unit report from Islamabad, the talks were still in progress up to the time of dispatch of the report. According to the report, the talks between President Khamene'i and President Ziaul Haq revolve around important international issues, especially the problems of the Muslim world, the issues of Palestine, Afghanistan, the Iran-Iraq war and other international issues.

According to political circles in Islamabad, the talks, which are among the lengthiest held between leaders of countries, have special importance on an international level.

Tehran: Khomeyni Greetings Conveyed

LD141227 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian
1030 GMT 14 Jan 86

[Text] A correspondent of the Voice and Vision of the Islamic Republic of Iran, dispatched to Pakistan, reports on the continuation of our country's president's trip to Pakistan:

This morning, the Shi'ite and Sunni ulema and clergy of Pakistan met and conferred with the president at the residence of Iran's ambassador in Pakistan. During this meeting Khamene'i said, in part:

I feel proud and honored to be among you, the dear brothers of Islamic ulema who have come from various regions of Pakistan. You are living in a country created for Islam's sake and for the honor and prestige of Islam and the Muslims; and now,this gathering of the Islamic ulema from various sects, shows the unity of Muslims and depicts a sweet profile of Islam's future for us.

The president went on: A clergyman [Khamene'i], who has come from a revolutionary country soaked in blood, the country of Koran's sovereignty and Islam's honor and prestige, has many topics to talk about. In Islamic Iran, the rule of the Koran and Islamic values have gained victory over global blasphemy, colonialism, and conspiracies of global arrogance. Enemies were striving to prevent Islam's sovereignty in any part of the world which would have meant the practical application of Islamic regulations among the people.

Concerning the revival of Islamic ideology, the president said: The revival of Islam means the rule of Islam in the people's political and social system; and after the victory of the Islamic revolution, which was in fact a miracle of Islam and the Muslims, the overall opposition of global arrogance from the East and the West began in the forms of economic sanctions, propaganda from across the borders and even the imposed war. The objective of global arrogance for imposing this war, was to destroy the Islamic revolution and overthrow the Islamic government. But in the not too distant future, our nation will deliver a main blow to the infidel Ba'thist government and will make the enemies of Islam regret this desperate action.

Khamene'i added: Our policy and goal is the sovereignty of Islam and the unity of Muslims; and now is the time for me to convey Imam Khomeyni's message to you. Addressing you, the imam graciously said: O you the ulema of Islam, o you, the people who have promised to work for Islam and Muslims, observe how the enemies of Muslims have united against Islam by words and deeds. Eliminate discords among yourselves and through your unity, strive to serve Islam and the Muslims. The imam graciously said: The enemies of Islam are not against us, the Iranians. The issue has nothing to do with nationalism. They are opposed to Islam; and if we had abandoned Islam, they would have not opposed us. You see the same thing today, they have reached a compromise with many countries which have chosen this approach.

Concluding, the president said: I am grateful to God for granting the responsibility of defending Islam to the Islamic Republic of Iran and for granting us success in this path. And I hope that the Sunni and Shi'ite Muslims will unite and overcome difficulties.

Talks With Muslim Scholars

BK141536 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu
1500 GMT 14 Jan 86

[Text] A delegation of Shi'ite and Sunni Muslim scholars met with the Iranian president at the Iranian Embassy in Islamabad today. The Iranian president exhorted them to work for Islamic unity. Earlier, Hojjat ol-Eslam Seyyed 'Ali Khamene'i met with the embassy staff and their family members.

Tehran Reports Cooperation Agreement

LD142118 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian
1630 GMT 14 Jan 86

[Text] The second round of talks between Messrs Velayati and Sahabzada Yaqub Ali Khan, the foreign ministers of Iran and Pakistan, was held this afternoon in order to reach final decisions about the outcome of the work of joint commissions. In this round

of talks, a memorandum of understanding on economic, trade and agricultural cooperation as well as a program relating to cultural exchanges was signed between the two countries.

During his talks with his Pakistani counterpart, Mr Velayati welcomed the level of relations between the two countries and said there are no obstacles to expanding planned cooperation in the developmental, industrial, road building, and railways fields. He then instructed the joint commissions to work out the details.

Under the memorandum of understanding on cooperation in the economic, trade and agricultural fields signed by the two countries' foreign ministers, the sides stressed the need to increase trade between Iran and Pakistan. It was also agreed that the second joint commission of the two countries be held in Tehran next month and that cooperation in the industrial, road building, railways and transportation fields be given greater attention.

A trade exchange agreement has been reached under the memorandum of understanding to increase Iran's oil and non-oil exports to Pakistan and to give greater diversity to Pakistan's exports to Iran. On agriculture, the sides, stressing the need to implement the provisions of the memorandum of understanding signed in Tehran between the two countries' agriculture ministers, agreed to further develop research and study work and to exchange information in the technological and scientific fields. The sides also agreed upon the exchange of professors and the grantin of scholarships in the agricultural and animal husbandry fields.

In the industrial field it was decided that Iran would carry out the necessary studies of Pakistan's capabilities in order to increase sugar cane production. In the context of the two countries' biannual cultural exchange, the sides agreed to cooperation in matters having to do with museums, staging book exhibitions, exchanging books and publications, archaeological work, cooperation between the two countries' public libraries, exchanging research workers to familiarize them with Islamic sources and reference material, Persian language studies, granting scholarships for Persian language and literature studies, cooperation between universities and institutes of higher education and research, sending Persian language professors to Pakistan, and exchanging sports films.

Paper Concerned About Trade Deal With India

GF141703 Lahore NAWA-E WAQT in Urdu
10 Jan 86 p 3

[Editorial: "Pakistan-India Trade Relations"]

[Text] By the time you read these lines, the ministers of finance of Pakistan and India will have signed trade pacts between the two countries. Pakistan Minister of Finance Mr Mahbubul Haq recently paid a visit to India. He held encouraging talks with the Indian finance minister on the subject of trade between the two countries. They came to a decision on certain basic matters. The current trade pact is a link in the same chain.

When the Pakistani correspondents held a question and answer session at the airport with the indian finance minister on the trade pact, he gave an interesting answer. He said: We should first come to a decision on the cut and design of our jackets, the question of buttons can be decided upon later.

The real question is: Who is having a jacket made for him? In any case, Pakistan has already experienced trade with India which proved highly disappointing. Trade between the two countries started without any planning and the Pakistani merchants had imported millions of rupees worth of goods from India. The correct way would have been to ask the Indian finance minister for his proposals and then draft a trade pact after consultations with the Karachi, Peshawar, and Lahore Chambers of Commerce.

Matters of importance involve finding out whether the proposals set forth by India are acceptable and practical and what the effect would be on Pakistani industries and trade machinery. We thought that we had done our 'homework' before the arrival of the Indian finance minister, but related press reports shown to us today say that we did nothing of the sort. Work on these matters after the departure from Pakistan of the Indian finance minister is expected of us.

Pakistan cannot bear a loss in the private sector, because as compared with the availability of goods and prices in Pakistan, Indian merchandise is available in large quantities and at much cheaper rates. Therefore, it is necessary to be very careful in exchanging goods so that Pakistan does not suffer a loss. It is also necessary to keep a balance of trade in both countries.

PAKISTAN TIMES Denies Detention of Mujahidin

GF141656 Rawalpindi PAKISTAN TIMES in English
10 Jan 86 p 3

[Text] January 9: A spokesman of the Hezb-e Eslami Afghanistan of,Engineer Gulbuddin Hikmatyar yesterday described a report as baseless in which it has been said that 400 mujahidin were under detention of Kuki Khel.

According to MUJAHID PRESS AGENCY, the mujahidin in reprisal for the continued detention of one mujahid by the Kuki Khel men captured 145 supporters of Kuki Khel during their attack on the military convoy of the Kabul government and the Russians a few days ago inside Afghanistan.

The spokesman said that mujahidin would not remain indifferent if any such action is resorted to by the supporters of the Russians.

The spokesman added that no matter whosoever tried to create hurdles for the mujahidin inside Afghanistan would be resisted as the Russian invasion is being resisted.

BANGLADESH

Opposition Groups Plan Campaigns Against Martial Law

HK141538 Hong Kong AFP in English 1521 GMT 14 Jan 86

[Text] Dhaka, Jan 14 (AFP) — The two leading opposition groupings in Bangladesh today announced they would wage ten-day campaigns press their demands for an early end to martial law starting on January 20.

The two alliances of 15 and seven parties said the campaigns would be run separately, but along identical lines.

The campaigns were announced at the first meeting of the opposition liaison committee since the country's military ruler Hussain Mohammad Ershad lifted a ban on open political activities on January 1 following a ten-month ban.

The 15-party alliance is led by Sheikh Hasina Wajed, while the seven-party aliance is headed by Begum Khaleda Zia.

Barrister Rafiqul Islam, a top leader of the seven-party grouping, said that the campaigns would start on January 20 leading up to mass rallies in Dhaka on January 29.

He said that the two alliances would hold protest meetings and demonstrations to demand and early withdrawal of martial law and the holding of national polls under a neutral and caretaker government.

President Ershad has three times in the last two years called off elections in the face of opposition boycotts.

NEPAL

Government To Ask Aid Consortium for $700 Million

HK141332 Hong Kong AFP in English 1306 GMT 14 Jan 86

[Text] Kathmandu, Jan 14 (AFP) — Nepal plans to ask the Nepal Aid Consortium for 700 million U.S. dollars for the next two years, an official said.

The consortium's last two-year pledge of 542 million dollars, it largest commitment ever, is due to run out at the end of fiscal 1985 next July.

A high-level ministerial delegation led by Finance Minister Prakash Chandra Lohani left Sunday for Tokyo to attend the consortium's biennial meeting beginning Thursday.

The meeting will be held under the chairmanship of the World Bank and attended by representatives from Austria, Belgium, Canada, West Germany, Britian, France, Japan, the United States, Switzerland, Finland, Sweden, Denmark, Norway, Saudi Arabia, and United Nations Agencies.

"We will explain... the overall country's econovic situation, specially after the recent devaluation of the Nepalese currency by 14.7 percent and the measures taken by the government for the development of the national economy," Mr Lohani told the AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE before leaving.

"We are hopeful of raising between 300 to 350 million U.S. dollars annually for the next two fiscal years for financing various industrial, agriculture and hydro electric development projects," he said.

Nepal would use the funds to finance the proposed multi-million dollar Sapta Gandaki and Arun-3 hydro projects, and for cement, paper and textile industry development underlined in the country's seventh five year plan, he said.

The plan, covering 52.4 billion rupees (2.5 billion dollars) in projects, was launched last July and intends to step up gross national production by four percent annually.

Asked to comment on the reason for a delay in using 900 million dollars funds earmarked by the World Bank and other aid donors for financing 1,300 large and small projects, Mr Lohani said the projects had to be dropped when Nepal began building the 325 million dollar 66-megawatt Marsyangdi hydro power project.

He said Nepal also would seek the World Bank's agreement for the diversification of 45 million dollars promised for a 204-kilometre (126-miles) stretch of the Mahakali Kohalpur road in the far east of the country. India has offered to fully aid construction of this road, he said.

After the meeting, the finance minsiter is scheduled for talks with his Japanese counterpart Noboru Takeshita on bilateral aid for rural communications development, a television project and the hydro projects' financing.

The Nepalese delegation comprises Chief Cabinet Secretary Kzrna Dhoj Adhikari, Finance Secretary Lok Bahadur Shrestha, and the Finance Ministry's foreign aid division head, Hit Singh Shrestha, along with the foreign minister.

Nepalese ambassador to Tokyo Narayan Prasad Aryal also will attend the sessions.

Opposition Calls First United Strike for 16 Jan

HK141448 Hong Kong AFP in English 1439 GMT 14 Jan 86

[Text] Kathmandu, Jan 14 (AFP) — All Nepal's banned political parties have united to call a combined general strike for the first time in 25 years, party sources said today. The 11 banned parties have called a strike Thursday to protest high prices and the government's economic and fiscal policies following the devaluation in November of the Nepalese rupee.

The strike, covering the cities of Kathmandu, Lalitpur and Bhaktapur in the Kathmandu valley, is the first such joint action since the partyless panchayat system was introduced 25 years ago, party sources said.

The strike is expected to seriously disrupt life in the three cities, with a total population of 766,345, as private transport services will be suspended and markets will be closed all day.

Both private and public schools and colleges in the three cities have been ordered to close Thursday, although only private sector workers are expected to join the strike.

The strike will be a trial of strength by the banned anti-Panchayat political opposition before general elections due to be held in April, analysts said here.

The major banned political parties have already announced a boycott of the election unless major constitutional changes are made to liberalise the Panchayat system, and they will continue to fight for a revival of a western-style democracy, party sources said today.

No arrests have been reported in advance of the strike.

SRI LANKA

Indian Envoy Discusses Indian Tamils With Minister

BK141140 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 14 Jan 86

[Text] In Colombo, the Indian high commissioner, Mr J.N. Dixit, met the national security minister, Mr Lalith Athulathmudali, this morning and further discussed matters related to the problems of Tamils of Indian origin. Mr Athulathmudali is in touch with the rural industries minister, Mr Thondaman, in an effort to resolve the issue.

Meanwhile, plantation workers belonging to Ceylon Workers Congress today began a 3-month-long agitation against statelessness of the 4 lakh workers. The Congress has called upon the workers to pray for national reconciliation and peace in Sri Lanka and report to work only in the afternoon during the agitation period. The All India Radio Colombo correspondent, Plabon Majumdar, says this step by workers belonging to the majority trade union has prodded the government to come up with a set of proposals to avert an economic crisis due to a drop in the tea production and export.

Bandaranaike Raps Government on Unrest, Elections

BK131507 Colombo DAILY NEWS in English 6 Jan 86 p 9

[By W.G. Gooneratne and Sunil D. Perera, Gampaha correspondents]

[Excerpt] SLFP leader, Mrs. Sirima Bandaranaike said on Saturday that the government was trying to hide the country's burning issues including the rising cost of living behind the facade of the terrorist problem.

Addressing a SLFP meeting at the Gampaha UC [Union Council] grounds Mrs. Bandaranaike said the government was unable to solve the ethnic problem as the terrorists had no confidence in it. Mrs. Bandaranaike said she had no intention of entering parliament alone as she hoped to do so with the entire SLFP group at a general election.

She said, "I was like a counterfeit coin for the last five years. I don't know with what intention the President decided to restore my civic rights. In 1982 I had to face bombs at this venue, but today I am receiving bouquets and greetings. I lost my civic rights on a charge not found in any existing law. I had only tried to protect the democratic process in 1962, 1964 and 1971. Even President Jayewardene would not have been living today if I did not do that then."

Mrs. Bandaranaike who accused the government of trying to break up the SLFP said it would never succeed in its attempt.

She said the country's problems including terrorism were all due to the postponement of general elections in 1983.

"The present goveynment is illegal. That is why we are demanding a general election," she said.

Emphasising that a political solution was needed to overcome the present terrorist problem, Mrs. Bandaranaike said talks held in Colombo, Bahamas, Oman, and Dhaka in this connection have all failed.

She said the TULF was summoned for the roundtable conference on their recommendation. But the SLFP later withdrew from the talks because it served no purpose. The present government had no solution to the terrorist problem. Terrorist leaders had no faith in the government leadership. So would further talks serve any purpose? she asked.

Mrs. Bandaranaike said TULF leaders had now taken refuge in Madras. In this situation an agreement with terrorists leaders could be useless. Terrorist leaders themselves were fighting each other. Therefore the best solution was to hold a general election to enable Tamils to elect their true leaders.

The SLFP, she said would continue its demand for a general election by holding meetings throughout the country.

Mrs. Bandaranaike said illegal betting and the liquor menace was fast spreading throughout the country. Many people who voted for the UNP to obtain 8 lbs of grain per week at a reasonable price were now suffering in hunger. All public corporations were being systematically closed down and nationalised ventures were being slowly given over to the private sector. The government was trying to hide all burning problems under the facade of terrorism.

Mrs. Bandaranaike said by postponing general elections the government had deprived 8 million people of their civic rights. She would therefore call upon the government to restore their civic rights, too, by holding a general election.

Opposition leader Mr. Anura Mandaranaike who spoke before Mrs. Bandaranaike said the SLFP would never fall into the trap laid by the government by depriving their leader of her civic rights. The SLFP could easily defeat the UNP if it reorganised itself on a new footing.

He said the party lost the Mulkirigala byelection owing to poor organisation. The people were now living in fear. Ninety thou-

sand people have fled their homes and become refugees due to terrorism. A quick solution had to be found for the ethnic problem.

The government was not consistent in its policy towards India. At one moment it treated India as a friend and the next moment it criticised her. Even Mr. Rajiv Gandhi had begun to suspect our motives thinking the Sri Lanka government was trying to deceive him.

Mr. Bandaranaike said he would be contesting the Dompe seat at the next general election. He called upon Mrs. Bapdaranaike to enter Parliament as MP of Attanagalla if that was her wish, saying he could willingly hand over the opposition leadership to her.

He said Mr. Lakshman Jayakody had agreed to resign from his seat at any moment to enable Mrs. Bandaranaike to gain nomination as MP for Attanagalla.

President Criticizes Bandaranaike Remarks

BK141312 Colombo SUN in English 6 Jan 86 p 1

[Text] President J.R. Jayewardene yesterday called for full support for the Police and the Armed Forces who were fighting in the defence of democracy, and accused SLFP leader Swrimavo Bandaranaike of "talking utter nonsense" on the ethnic issue.

The President said he preferred a political solution to the country's ethnic conflict. "Who on earth wants a military solution?" he asked. "The Government wants no military solution to any problem."

Speaking at the 66th annual general meeting of the Ceylon Estate Staffs Union at the New Town Hall, the President said people who used arms to gain their ends should be dealt with in the same manner. "If the terrorists lay down arms I will order the Army into the barracks immediately," he pledged.

"The Police and the Armed Forces should be extended full support and backing in their activities. They are fighting to protect the systems of democracy, Parliament and the Presidency" he said.

Referring to opposition SLFP leader Sirimavo Bandaranaike's call for a political solution to the ethnic conflict President Jayewardene said: "There are many people who talk about political solutions to this problem. Today, Ms. Bandaranaike is calling for a political solution. Was it a political solution that she entered into in 1971, killing 20,000 people? She is talking utter nonsense," the President said.

President Jayewardene also spoke of how the Committee for the Monitoring of the Cessation of Hostilities, now an international accepted body, was hindered in its activities by the terrorists.

The hotel in Jaffna in which is was to hear representations of the citizens of the area was mined by terrorists and the Armed Forces who came to the Committee's assistance were shot at, the President said.

Commenting on opposition expressed by the union to the proposed privatisation of estates, President Jayewardene said the Government was prepared to convert nonviable state enterprises into joint stock companies with the ownership retained by the state.

"This will apply to the plantation sector, telecommunications and to any other corporations that fall within that category" he explained.

The majority of shares would be held by the state and the minority sold to people prepared to buy them, the President said.

It would mean a large influx of money and help alleviate the present difficulties faced by the Finance Minister.

President Jayewardene assured that privatisation was no means to hand over estates or any other institutions to private individuals. "That is totally wrong. No such foolish idea will emanate from this Government" he said.

The President assured the union that their problems of wage increases and management would be looked into.

The President of the Union, P.G. Dassanayaka welcoming the guests said the Union was opposed to the proposed privatisation of estates. He urged that the decentralised administration of estates be reviewed and changes made.

Navy Extends Ship Interception Zone to Gulf of Oman

LD141916 Tehran IRNA in English 1855 GMT 14 Jan 86

[Text] Tehran, Jan. 14, IRNA — Navy commander, Captain Mohammad Hoseyn Malekzadegan announced Tuesday that Iran will continue to exercise her right to intercept any ship suspected of carrying military hardware for the Iraqi regime, regardless of the flag they sail under.

In an interview with the Tehran daily *KAYHAN* here Tuesday, Captain Malekzadegan said that the navy personnel will continue to inspect or seize suspected ships in the Persian Gulf.

The captain said that a number of cargo ships flying the American, British, Greek and Panamanian flags were seized and detained by Iran's naval forces over the past few days, but were later released after the Iranian Navy had ascertained whether or not they were carrying cargo for Iraq.

Iran's Navy will release the seized cargo ship *Ibn al-Beitar* currently impounded at a southern port since last month as soon as her owners are identified, and provided that there is no cargo for the Iraqi regime aboard it, the captain said, noting that the ship's crew members are all free.

The captain concluded that the naval forces are presently checking all liners including those sailing in the Gulf of Oman, which might be suspected of carrying military cargo for Iraq.

UK, U.S. Acknowledge Search Rights

LD142241 Tehran IRNA in English 2153 GMT 14 Jan 86

[Text] London, Jan. 14, IRNA — Britain Tuesday acknowledged the Islamic Republic's right to stop and search neutral vessels suspected of carrying strategic goods for Iraq.

A Foreign Office statement issued in London said Britain "recognizes that in certain circumstances a state engaged in armed conflict could stop and search ships in the high seas."

However the statement said London would ask the Iranian authorities to state their "reasons" for searching the British ship *Barber Perseus* Sunday.

According to the statement, the ship was stopped and searched by the Iranian Navy men and later "they apologized for delaying the ship and left."

While accepting Iran's right to search ships in international waters, the statement said international law in this regard was not specific and remained in a "grey area."

A U.S. flag ship was also stopped and searched by the Iranian Navy in the region Sunday. It was the first time that an American and a British ship had faced such action by Iran. Both the U.S. and Britain have a considerable naval presence in the area.

In Washington Monday, the White House press spokesman also admitted Iran's "certain rights" to act in such circumstances. The U.S. Coast Guard and Navy does carry out its own regular search operations against vessels in the Caribbean Sea suspected of carrying drugs and other illegal goods bound for the U.S.

The Islamic Republic has repeatedly warned that it would carry out search operations in the Persian Gulf waters and beyond if necessary in order to prevent the supply of arms to Iraq via regional ports.

The Iranian Navy has said it has searched some 300 ships in the past several months.

The British Foreign Office statement also expressed concern over Sunday's incident. It said it "underlined the need for the de-escalation" of the Iraqi war and the matter would be discussed in British Foreign Secretary Sir Geoffrey Howe's current tour of regional states, Oman, Kuwait and Saudi Arabia.

Commentary on U.S. Ship Inspection

GF141931 Tehran International Service in Arabic 1730 GMT 14 Jan 86

[Station commentary]

[Text] The Islamic Republic still exercises its natural right to inspect ships in the northern part of the Persian Gulf. It still adheres to its decision to confiscate any goods bound for Iraq that have a direct or indirect effect on the Ba'thist regime's military force. This measure reflects the ability of the Islamic Republic to make technical decisions to protect the strategic interests of the Islamic Revolution. The Islamic Republic will take any such measures without reservation or consideration for political inclinations as long as it is exercising a legitimate right approved by international laws.

Yesterday, the Islamic forces stopped a suspected ship carrying the U.S. flag. Following a routine procedure, the ship was allowed to sail for its destination. This measure caused a political storm within U.S. and European circles. Some observers stated that they were surprised about what happened. We ask: What is the secret behind their surprise? Does the U.S. flag on a ship provide immunity from any permitted measures? Is it a sufficient reason for not approaching the ship?

Brothers, the point is that those who induced the uproar and viewed the stopping of the U.S. ship as an unusual act do not know yet the nature of the Islamic Revolution and the decision made amid events occurring in the Islamic Republic.

The Islamic Revolution does not view the United States as a giant to be worshipped by all. It views it and any small country in the world as equals. As the Islamic Republic has stopped ships belonging to other countries. it is always ready to stop any suspected ship even if it carries the U.S. flag.

It seems that those who cannot say to Reagan that his vision is impaired are the ones surprised at the step taken by the Islamic Republic. They have the right to be surprised because they view the United States as greater than it is. However, we do not feel the United States has any privileges over others or that we must submit to the U.S. decision, although it opposes the Islamic

nation's aspirations. There exists a group that has made the event seem (word indistinct) and through its statements to the press and radio stations it has pointed to the red signal. This group said that the United States will not remain quiet about the event and will retaliate because of its wounded pride.

Indeed, some U.S. units undertook movements in the Persian Gulf waters. In response to this theory, we say that we have not done anything except exercise a natural and legitimate right. By taking this measure, we have violated no international laws or even U.S. laws. As long as our action is legitimate, the consequences do not bother us. The gist of any work is the principle. It does not matter whether Washington is pleased or not or whether it retaliates or not, as long as no action has been taken to violate international laws.

We doubt whether Washington understands such connotations. We suspect its intentions and aims because it uses all ways and means to continue its aggressive policy against the oppressed people. Here, we must express our view about the U.S. movements in the Gulf region. U.S. mobilization does not concern us and the Pentagon's plans do not bother us. We will continue to exercise this legitimate right without being intimidated by the U.S. flag, even if it is raised over an arsenal.

Clandestine Reports U.S. Escorts

GF141732 (Clandestine) Free Voice of Iran in Persian 1500 GMT 14 Jan 86

[Text] Since yesterday, merchant ships that travel under the United States flag in the international waters of the Persian Gulf are being escorted by U.S. warships.

This action takes place as a warning to the patrol boats of the Islamic Republic who have carried out several acts of naval piracy in the international waters of the Persian Gulf.

Informed sources say the presence of U.S. warships in the Persian Gulf is a serious warning to the Tehran regime.

Offer Repeated To Return Hijacked Plane to Kuwait

LD142038 Tehran IRNA in English 1829 GMT 14 Jan 86

[Text] Zahedan, Sistan-Baluchestan Prov., Jan. 14, IRNA — Head of Iran's Civil Aviation Organization Tuesday repeated an announcement made earlier this week that Kuwait can send pilots to fly back its hijacked airliner parked at Tehran's Mehrabad Airport. He said the plane has been repaired.

Shafti said that Kuwait and its civil aviation organization have been informed of the issue by way of political channels and through the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO).

He said that Iran has repaired the plane and is ready to turn it over to Kuwait in accordance with applicable international aviation laws whereas Iranian passenger planes hijacked in June and September 1984 to Iraq have not been returned to the Islamic Republic.

The official termed Iraq's refusal to do so a clear violation of international law.

Shafti, however expressed hope that the Islamic Republic would eventually secure the release of its planes through the efforts of the ICAO and other relevant world bodies.

Khamene'i Support Message Delivered to Al-Qadhdhafi

LD142208 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 2030 GMT 14 Jan 86

[Text] On his arrival in Libya today, the ambassador of the Islamic Republic of Iran met and conveyed a verbal message from Mr Seyyed 'Ali Khamene'i, president of the Islamic Republic of Iran, to Colonel Al-Qadhdhafi, the Libyan leader, with whom he discussed important regional problems.

In this message Mr Khamene'i, once again proclaiming the Islamic Republic of Iran's support for the fraternal Muslim nation of Libya vis-a-vis any imperialist-Zionist attack, noted the necessity of mobilizing all the Islamic forces for the liberation of dear Jerusalem and, referring to the war imposed by the subservient regime ruling Iraq and the imperialist-Zionist motivation behind this aggression, once again emphasized the decisive and immutable resolve of the nation and Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran in continuing the war until the liquidation of this sedition.

In this message, our country's president also noted that the continuation of the war until the liquidation of the Iraqi 'Aflaqite regime from the region constitutes a fundamental step toward the course of opening up the main warfront for the liberation of all the usurped territories of Palestine.

During the meeting, Col al-Qadhdhafi, expressing pleasure for the receipt of the warm, fraternal message from our country's president, highly valued and paid tribute to the revolutionary and Islamic stance adopted by the Islamic Republic of Iran in its support for Libya and once again talked about the recent hostile acts of the United States towards Libya, saying: Indeed the Islamic Republic of Iran's decisive support for Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah [SPLAJ] vis-a-vis any imperialist-Zionist attack and also proclaiming its readiness for an active participation in liberating occupied Palestine and dear Jerusalem, particularly at this juncture when the Islamic Republic of Iran itself is embroiled in a war imposed by imperialism, is a cause for pride and glory to the Muslim nation of Libya and renders it even more resolute in its resistance!

During the meeting, Col al-Qadhdhafi, re-emphasizing the unalterable support and backing of the nation and leadership of SPLAJ for the rightful stances of Islamic Republic of Iran toward the war imposed by the Iraqi ruling regime, expressed hope for the speediest downfall of Saddam and the liberation of the Muslim Iraqi nation.

Montazeri Calls for Broad-Based Iraqi Muslim Movement

LD112108 Tehran IRNA in English 1654 GMT 11 Jan 86

[Text] Tehran, Jan. 11, IRNA — Revered Ayatollah Hoseyn Ali Montazeri Friday called on Iraqi Muslim Mojahedin to train more militant people dedicated to toppling the Iraqi Ba'th regime.

Speaking to visiting members of the Tehran-based Supreme Assembly of the Islamic Revolution of Iraq (SAIRI), the ayatollah said that contacts should be established with Iraqi dissidents in and outside of Iraq.

All responsible and dedicated Iraqis who want to participate in the Islamic movement should be allowed to do so regardless of their affiliation, Ayatollah Montazeri said.

Headed by Hojjat ol-Eslam Mahmud Hashemi and Hojjat ol-Eslam Hakim, the assembly has several thousand militant troops in the southern and northern war fronts.

Ayatollah Montazeri said that the Iraqi people expect of their ulema to call all sections of the population, including the Shi'ite, Sunnis, and Kurds to unity and mobilization for the Iraqi revolution.

The ayatollah also said that Iran's military organizations should as a religious duty fully support the Iraqi Mojahedin.

Japanese Parliamentarian Begins Visit To Expand Ties

LD101909 Tehran IRNA in English 0845 GMT 10 Jan 86

[Text] Tehran, Jan. 10, IRNA — Representative of the Japanese Parliament and president of the policy-making council of the Liberal-Democratic Party (LDP) of Japan, Masay Uki Fujio arrived here early Friday.

The Japanese envoy, who is also president of the Irano-Japan Parliamentary Association, is heading a delegation and will stay here for a three day official visit.

Fujio said in an interview upon his arrival here, that he has travelled to Iran on behalf of the Japanese prime minister, Yasuhiro Nakasone to convey "the friendly sentiments of the Japanese people to the people of Iran."

Fujio, who is an influntial LDP leader, said his visit was taking place following the recent visit to Japan of Iran's Majlis Speaker Hojjat ol-Eslam Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani.

He said in talks with Iranian officials, he will discuss grounds for expansion and strengthening of mutual friendly ties.

Received by Velayati

LD112308 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 11 Jan 86

[Text] In Tehran today, Mr Fujio, chairman of the Iran-Japan Parliamentary Friendship Society and special representative of the Japanese prime minister, and the political-economic parliamentary delegation accompanying him, met with Velayati, our country's foreign affairs minister.

During the meeting, Mr Fujio noted the extensive bilateral relations, and said: I have used this opportunity to meet with the Iranian authorities to pursue issues of mutual interest as the special representative of the prime minister.

He added: The Japanese delegation is willing to consider various ways of expanding bilateral relations as soon as the views of the Islamic Republic of Iran are known. We realize that the Iranian nation has solved existing problems by relying on total unity and steadfastness, and in spite of the war.

The special representative of the prime minister of Japan stressed: We are well aware that Iraq began the war, attacking residential quarters and oil tankers, deploying chemical weapons, and attempting inhuman acts. The Japanese foreign affairs minister has always criticized such acts and urged the Iraqis to halt these attacks.

In reply, Foreign Affairs Minister Velayati expressed his pleasure at the expansion of bilateral relations and the outcome of Speaker Hashemi-Rafsanjani's visit to Japan. He emphasized the importance of contacts between officials of the two countries for the expansion of relations and said: Contacts of this sort will speed the full implementation of mutual agreements in various fields.

Meeting With Musavi

LD121542 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 2030 GMT 11 Jan 86

[Text] According to a report from our correspondent, in the course of a meeting with the prime minister, Mr Mir Hoseyn Musavi, the special envoy of the Japanese prime minister and a deputy of that country's parliament this evening submitted a written message to Mr Musavi from the prime minister of Japan.

Mr Musayuki Fujio, a deputy of Japan's parliament and the head of the Iran-Japan Parliamentary Friendship Society, said at the start of this meeting: As a representative of the people and Government of Japan, I am carrying a message of friendship for the people of Iran. I would like to inform Your Excellency that the nation and Government of Japan are very pleased with the outcome of Mr Hashemi-Rafsanjani's visit to Japan, and would like to expand relations further.

The special envoy of Japan's prime minister, while referring to the importance of further expanding relations, suggested that a special commission should look into the practical ways to expand relations between the two countries. While expressing delight over the improvement of relations between Iran and the Persian Gulf countries, Mr Fujio added: The stance of the Islamic Republic of Iran has impressed me, and, I hope that Iran's efforts in making the countries of the region understand its fundamental stances will bear fruit. I also hope that the nation of Iran, by removing the existing obstacles to its progress, will succeed in glorifying its revolution; and I assure you that for this purpose,

if there is some service the nation and Government of Japan can offer, we are quite willing to offer it.

Responding to the Japanese deputy and special envoy of Japan's prime minister, Mr Musavi expressed his hope for the continuation of the trend of growing Iran-Japan ties.

Musavi added: We believe that the foundation for friendship between Iran and Japan is set in the deeper understanding of the mutual circumstances of the two nations. Unfortunately, the mass media, dominated by the great powers, has been painting an undesirable portrait of the Islamic Republic of Iran. We hope that a continuous exchange of high-ranking delegations between the two countries will be reflected in a realistic view by other nations of the justified stances of the Islamic Republic of Iran. I am certain that these talks will contribute toward further mutual understanding and bring our goal of peace and international security closer. Naturally, the officials of both countries must patiently prepare the areas of mutual interest to expand relations further.

Musavi noted that the new revolutionary administration in Iran was prepared to take a step in the direction of expanding the economywith enthusiasm and revolutionary fervor. He said: We believe that reconstruction and progress are only possible under the protection of independence and true peace.

The prime minister, noting the friendly stand of the Islamic Republic of Iran toward countries of the region, said: Since the victory of the Islamic Revolution, we have called upon the countries of the region to maintain mutual cooperation and friendship. We are, fortunately, reaping the harvest of our patient policies. We are seeking to achieve our goals of friendly coexistence with our neighbors. However, we have already demonstrated that we will firmly and decisively oppose any intervention in the affairs of Iran.

Referring to the Iraqi regime's war crimes in the border areas, Musavi stressed: We observe that our adversary is an enemy of regional peace. Hence, we will regard the departure of Saddam to be beneficial for the region. The countries seeking peace must realize that if we desire security and peace in the Persian Gulf and Indian Ocean regions so that the countries may continue to exist peacefully and with mutual understanding, then we must scorch the roots of any aggression. Our policies regarding the war fall within this framework.

Meeting With Majlis Speaker

LD121544 Tehran IRNA in English 1515 GMT 12 Jan 86

[Text]Tehran, Jan 12 IRNA — Majlis Speaker Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani said here Sunday that he expected Iran and Japan to take more serious measures to expand their mutual relations.

In a meeting with visiting Japanese parliamentary envoy, Masayuki Fujio here Sunday, the Majlis speaker said that Iran is willing to cooperate with Japan and has concentrated its efforts on developing such bilateral cooperation.

The speaker further expressed hope that Japan's prime minister and parliamentary speakers would pay a visit to Tehran.

The Japanese official lauded Rafsanjani's role in strengthening friendship between Japanese and Iranian nations and also talked about the achievements gained after Rafsanjani's visit to Japan.

Hojjat ol-Eslam Hashemi-Rafsanjani paid an official visit to Japan last August.

Mr Fujio further said that Japan should follow the Iranian initiative and put into practice the understanding established between the two countries during Rafsanjani's visit to Japan.

The Japanese prime minister's special envoy also emphasized the need for continuous contacts between Iranian and Japanese officials and strengthening of the Irano-Japan Friendship Society.

He also announced Japan's preparedness to cooperate with Iran in students and cultural exchanges.

The Japanese deleagtion arrived here January 10.

Delegation Concludes Visit

LD121548 Tehran IRNA in English 1531 GMT 12 Jan 86

[Text]Tehran Jan 12, IRNA — Visiting Japanese parliamentary delegation concluded talks with senior Iranian officials and departed here sunday afternoon.

During its three-day visit, the Japanese delegation headed by chairman of the policy affairs Research Council of Japan's liberal Democratic Party, Masayuki Fujio, met and conferred with Majlis Speaker Hojjat ol-Eslam Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani, Prime Minister Huseyn Musavi and Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati. It also met with Iranian oil minister Gholam Reza Aqazadeh here Sunday morning. The two sides decided to increase volume of oil and non-oil exchanges between the two countries.

According to Japan's Ministry of International Trade and Industry, Japan's import of Iranian oil increased significantly during the last three months of 1985.

Iran exported 1.76 billion liters of crude oil to Japan during November 1985, the figure reflected a quadrupling of oil exports compared to November 1984.

Also discussed with Oil Minister Aqazadeh was the follow-up talks on the expansion of economic relations between the two countries, proposed by Majlis Speaker Rafsanjani during his visit to Tokyo last August.

Provincial Cooperation Talks Held With Turkey

LD142113 Tehran IRNA in English 1847 GMT 14 Jan 86

[Text] Orumiyeh, West Azarbaijan Prov., Jan. 14, IRNA — Iran-Turkey provincial economic cooperation, bilateral

exchanges and barter trade were discussed here Monday between visiting Turkish Governor General Of Erzurum Province Rajab Birson Ozun and his counterpart of West Azarbaijan Province Ata'i.

Talks between the two sides also focused on agricultural, cultural and sporting activities collaboration as well as mutual use of each other's facilities and know-how to promote these sorts of efforts.

The Turkish governor general invited his Iranian counterpart to visit Erzurum Province.

He also expressed hope that the two sides would increase provincial agricultural cooperation and benefit from each other's expertise. He called for greater coordination of bilateral issues.

Elsewhere in Tabriz of East Azerbaijan Province of Iran Ozun said air flights between Tabriz and Erzurum were currently under study by Iran and Turkey's civil aviation organizations. He added that the issue will also be discussed with the officials of East Azarbaiajan.

USSR Envoy, Official Discuss Agricultural Cooperation

LD121544 Tehran IRNA In English 1500 GMT 12 Jan 86

[Text] Tehran Jan 12, IRNA — Expansion of Irano-Soviet agricultural cooperation was discussed in a meeting here Sunday between Iranian deputy agriculture minister, Br. Khunsari and Soviet Ambassador V.K. Boldyrev.

Ministry of Agriculture announced here that the talks focused on the upcoming 39th joint annual meeting on protection of plants and herbs. Members of Irano-Soviet delegation of the joint committee were present at the talks.

KYODO Reports Iranian Crude Oil Export Increase

OW140256 Tokyo KYODO in English 0215 GMT 14 Jan 86

[Text] Tehran, Jan. 14 KYODO — Iran exported 24.8 million barrels of crude oil during the first 10 days of this year, up sharply from last year's daily average of 1.4 million barrels, oil sources here said Monday. About 460,000 barrels of this were shipped daily from Khark Island in the Persian Gulf, the sources said.

SAIRI Session Held in Tehran, Officials Elected

LD122348 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 12 Jan 86

[Text] This evening, the second session of the Central Council of the Supreme Assembly of the Islamic Revolution in Iraq [SAIRI] was held.

According to our correspondent's report, votes were cast for the election of chairman, speaker and executive secretary of the council, respectively: Hojjat ol-Eslam Seyyed Mohammad Baqer Hakim, Seyyed Mahmud Hashemi, and Mr Abu Ahmad Ja'fari have been elected.

The same report indicates that the session covered internal procedures and codes. Further, the dates for next Central Council sessions were decided.

At the conclusion of the session, the priorities of the activities in the SAIRI in the military, political, and publicity fields were decided in the light of recommendations by high-ranking authorities of the Islamic Republic of Iran and suggestions made during the sixth general convention of the assembly held recently. The general policies for confronting the Ba'thist regime of Saddam and its speedy downfall were discussed.

Interview With War Information Headquarter's Head

GF131810 Tehran KEYHAN in Persian 6 Jan 86 p 2

["Exclusive" Interview with Dr Kamal Kharazi, head of the War Information Headquarters, on 6 January in Tehran]

[Text] *KEYHAN* political service — Dr Kamal Kharazi, head of the War Information Headquarters, this afternoon gave an exclusive interview to *KEYHAN*. While outlining details of the threats of the foreign minister of the Iraqi regime to the countries of the Persian Gulf, he said that Iran, being a big power in the region, will not let the Saddam regime indulge in any adventure or threats. In answer to a question as to what would be the cause of this threat to the countries of the region by the Iraqi foreign minister, he said:

The recent Iraqi threat is within the framework of the recent moves by this regime and is understandable. In recent weeks we have been dispatching Karbala convoys to the battlefronts and have also been improving our relations with the countries of the Persian Gulf region, therefore such threats from the Iraqi side are not unexpected. Our moves have met with extraordinary reaction by the regime ruling Iraq and on the whole it reveals that Iraq does not want peace and security in the region, but wants to create unrest to the best of its ability. Kharazi added: Saddam's visit to Moscow, which served him no purpose, can be explained in the same way and the threats of the Iraqi foreign minister are also a link in the same chain.

We asked the head of the war information headquarters if he thought these threats by the Iraqi regime had any connection with the waves of Karbala caravans and millions of people heading toward the battlefronts? Dr Kharazi said: Undoubtedly, as I have already said, these threats are directly related to the floods of "Rahiyan-e Karbala" [people leaving for the battlefronts in the Karbala convoys], because this move of millions of people has shaken the very foundation of the regime ruling Iraq. Iraq now feels that it needs the support of the superpowers and help from the Persian Gulf countries. The movement of the Karbala convoys has also taken place at a time when Iraq is finding a sort of unsympathetic attitude from the countries of the region. The Iraqi regime is facing the growing relations of these countries with the Islamic Republic and the general mobilization which is meant to defend the Islamic revolution. It is in these circumstances that the Iraqi regime has started issuing threats in order to force them to get involved in the unrest and thus expand the tension in the region. We told Dr Kharazi that the Iraqi regime has a number of times engaged in acts of sabotage

in the countries of the region. The best proof of this is the expulsion of its ambassador from Bahrain.

In your opinion, what else might the Iraqi regime do against these countries which it has not already done? The head of the War Information Headquarters said: Of course, the Iraqi regime has already done what it could do and nobody can deny this. However, this threat will naturally put these countries on alert. These countries have seen for the last 5 and 1/2 years of the war that one must resist these threats and not let their countries fall victim to bullies and foreigners.

We asked the head of the War Information Headquarters what support the Islamic Republic of Iran could give to these countries against these threats? Dr Kharazi answered: We will do all we can to act against every effort to create unrest in the Persian Gulf region. We have said from the very beginning that we are against the expansion of tension in the Persian Gulf, and as a big power in the region we will not let the Iraqi regime indulge in any adventure or threat.

Tehran Criticizes ICO For Overlooking War Issues

GF131512 Tehran International Service in Turkish 1830 GMT 12 Jan 86

[Unattributed commentary: "The ICO Meeting and the Unresolved Problems"]

[Text] Dear listeners, the ICO meeting concluded ity work in Fes yesterday. The commqnique issued at the end of this convocation, which was attended by the foreign ministers and delegations of 41 Islamic countries, pointed to the important matters taken up and drew attention to the need for a general stand on them.

An important aspect of the communique which we would like to discuss is its failure to make any reference to the war the Iraqi Ba'thist regime has imposed on the Islamic Republic of Iran. It should be recalled that the conclusive communiques issued by the ICO meetings since the beginning of the Iran-Iraq war unilaterally have supported the so-called wish expressed by the infidel Iraqi Ba'thist regime for peace. It also should be recalled that disregarding the Iraqi attacks and the main causes of the war, and grabbing the opportunity created by the absence of the representatives of the Islamic Republic of Iran, the foreign ministers of a number of regimes in the region which are the puppets of imperialism, submitted draft resolutions to ICO meetings held earlier, overlooking the facts which are related to the war. However, the communique issued at the end of the latest ICO meeting made no reference to the war Iraq has imposed on the Islamic Republic of Iran.

The failure of the ICO to adopt a realistic and open stand on an important matter that concerns the Islamic world is indicative of its weakness. Regardless of the fact that the infidel Iraqi Ba'thist regime's numerous violations of international law stemming from its bombardment of civilian areas in the Islamic Republic of Iran have been criticized by a number of international establishments and by non-Islamic organizations at certain times, the ICO, which came into being in the name of Islam, has never criticized Iraq for its attacks. It has instead preferred to side with aggression at all times. However, the wrong moves made by the ICO are not only related to the war the Iraqi Ba'thist regime has imposed on the Islamic Republic of Iran. To date, it has not taken a single step toward finding an Islamic solution to the important problems concerning the Middle East and the Islamic world.

To date, the ICO, which was set up by the Islamic countries for the purpose of resolving the Islamic world's problems and difficulties, has not been observed to move in favor of the Muslim peoples. Instead, it always works against the interests of Muslims. Therefore, unless the ICO removes the imperialist puppets from its framework, it will not be able to take a single positive step in the direction of the interests of the Muslims. This cannot be expected of it [passage indistinct].

Reportage on Combat Operations in War With Iraq

Communique No 2,350

LD141806 Tehran IRNA in English 1750 GMT 14 Jan 86

[Text] Tehran, Jan. 14. IRNA — Iranian artillery fire on Iraqi positions in the western fronts on Monday, killed at least 10 Iraqi soldiers and demolished 18 bunkers of theirs, according to a military communique published by the Joint Staff Command of the Armed Forces here Tuesday.

In its Communique Number 2350, the Command says that artillery fire of Iran's Muslim combatants on a group of Iraqi soldiers trying to transport munitions in Mehran region Monday forced them to flee while sustaining heavy casualties.

Exchange of fire between Iranian Muslim Forces and Iraqi troops sporadically continued in the northwestern fronts Monday during which a number of Iraqi soldiers were killed or wounded and several of their bunkers and observation posts were destroyed, according to the Joint Staff communique.

Iranian surface-to-air fire repelled Iraqi war planes violating the airspace of Helaleh Monday, said the communique. Iraqi troops incurred substantial casualties and losses in artillery duels in the southern fronts over the said period which raged somewhat more heavily in the Southern Majnun Island.

The communique further says that Muslim combatants of Iran opened fire on a group of Iraqi tanks attempting to approach their positions in Nahre-Anbar region Monday destroying a number of the tanks along with their crew.

Iran's Gendarmerie forces shelled Iraqi positions across the Arvand River Monday, inflicting substantial casualties and damage on them and halting their engineering operations and silencing their artillery, reports the Joint Staff.

Meanwhile, Iraqi artillery fire on the City of Abadan in Khuzestan Province Monday damaged some locations in the city.